

Fee Adjustment Proposal



The Fish and Game Fee Adjustment proposal includes a modest increase in the price of licenses and tags to catch up with current costs and it creates a new process for Fish and Game Commission and legislative approval of future fee adjustments.

- The proposal does not include any new full time license funded positions. The Department is requesting two new full time positions funded by other sources.
- Since the last fee adjustment was made in May 2000, costs have increased significantly. Fish and Game has taken steps to control costs, but additional funding is needed to maintain services hunters and anglers expect.
- This is a modest increase in fees. A resident hunting license would cost \$1.50 more, less than one gallon of gas. A resident fishing license would cost \$3 more, about the price of a basic Mepps spinner. A nonresident would pay \$50 more to hunt deer and \$64 more to hunt elk in Idaho. Residents will continue to pay less to hunt in Idaho than neighboring states. Nonresidents will continue to pay more to hunt in Idaho than in neighboring states.
- The fee adjustment addresses priorities identified by the public. Thousands of hunters and anglers helped set priorities for the Department. Fish and Game listened and responded. It redirected money into the public priorities, but additional funding is needed to:
 - **Give hunters and anglers more places to hunt and fish.**
Hunters and anglers will have access to an additional 120,000 acres of private land through the popular *Access Yes!* program.
 - **Give hunters and anglers more information about hunting and fishing and get them involved in managing fish and wildlife.**
Hunters and anglers will have more opportunities to get involved in activities benefiting fish and wildlife. The proposal expands educational programs and increases the information available to hunters and anglers.
 - **Give hunters and anglers more of a voice in fish and wildlife management.**
The “average” hunter or angler will have more opportunity to influence fish and wildlife management. The funding will provide in-house expertise to help collect and analyze hunter and angler opinions about various options for managing fish and wildlife.
 - **Get tough on poachers by targeting hardcore poachers who steal fish and wildlife.**
Conservation officers will have more time to focus on the most flagrant poaching cases and enforce fish and wildlife laws.
 - **Help mule deer.**
The Department will work with private landowners, state and federal land management agencies, volunteers, and others to improve conditions for mule deer. The additional funding will help improve habitat on at least 10,000 acres, benefiting mule deer, sharp-tail grouse, sage grouse and other species.
 - **Maintain core services for hunters and anglers.**
The proposal keeps hatcheries operating and trucks running to stock rivers, lakes and streams so people can share love of fishing with children. It will keep conservation officers patrolling to catch poachers who steal fish and wildlife. It will allow Fish and Game to continue monitoring big game herds and enhance research efforts to assess the effect of predators, including wolves, habitat and other factors on game populations.
- In the future, hunters and anglers will see smaller, gradual increases, rather than substantial increases every seven to ten years. This will provide stable funding to maintain the services expected by hunters and anglers.
- Fish and Game will “run like a business.” The Commission will consider the Department’s annual budget request, consult with hunters and anglers, and will set fees accordingly. If fees get too high, people will stop buying. This is how business operates, with one major exception – the Idaho Legislature must approve any proposal to adjust fees.

The proposal keeps hunting and fishing affordable. It provides stable funding to continue the services hunters and anglers expect. It increases public involvement, while maintaining legislative oversight of the Fish and Game budget and fees.

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